

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert A Kalinsky on 2/13/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, (Currently Amended) A coupler device for fluid transport, comprising:

a body including an outer surface being a circumferential outer sidewall, said outer sidewall having a first end and a second end with an opening extending through said first and second ends, said body defining a slot disposed proximate one of said first end or second end, said slot extending in a direction transverse to said opening and through said outer sidewall;

a latch assembly including at least one outer member being disposed on said body externally exposed of said outer surface and connected with an inner member being disposed through said slot, said outer member protruding from said outer surface and reciprocating with respect to said outer sidewall, said inner member reciprocating within said slot and having an aperture corresponding with said opening, whereby said body is releasably connectable with a piece of fluid transport equipment through said

Art Unit: 3679

inner member; and an overmold portion formed on said outer sidewall of said body, said overmold portion defining a material molded over said body as an additional layer, such that said overmold portion is formed substantially about said outer sidewall, said overmold portion including a shroud portion partially covering said outer member of said latch assembly, said shroud portion being a wall extending outward from the outer sidewall and adjacent and around said outer member of said latch assembly, said wall extending in a direction transverse to said outer surface, and a top portion of said wall protruding from said outer surface at least a same distance as an outermost portion of said outer member protrudes from said outer surface when the outer member is in a non-depressed state, wherein the top portion does not completely cover the outermost portion of the outer member, so that the outermost portion of said outer member is externally exposed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

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